

about it; it is given irrespective altogether of whether the officer commanding a company earns it or not. The man who does his duty is placed on the same footing as the man who does not. This evil could be remedied by adopting a regulation that when a battalion goes to camp, as every battalion ought to do every year, a short examination should be made by some staff officer, appointed for the purpose, to ascertain whether the officers of companies had attended to drill during the year, according to a certain proportion previously fixed upon, and whether he had brought his men to the camp in a proper degree of efficiency. This could be done without any loss of time, and without any trouble or expense. There ought to be payment according to results, not only with regard to the officer commanding a company, but with regard to the men enrolled in it, and those men who have attained a certain standard of efficiency should not be placed on the same footing as those who are recruits. The great evil of our force is its want of stability. What we want is not to bring a certain number to the camp, but that the men will remain in the force for the term for which they are enrolled. If that were done, the force would attain both greater efficiency and greater stability. No officer should be entitled to this grant for drill instruction, who has not done anything to earn it during the year. There are captains of companies who never see their men, and know nothing about them from one year's end to the other, but who are placed on the same footing as those who keep their men together, and see that they have a certain amount of drill during the year. The Minister of Militia could regulate this matter by a Departmental Order, to the effect that no money shall be paid to any officer who goes to the camp without having performed a certain standard, be it high or low, which he lays down. In that way, a distinction will be drawn between the officer who does his duty and the one who does not.

Mr. VAIL. I am not disposed to find much fault with this vote. As the hon. member for West Elgin points out, it is really not pay for drill instruction. It is considered rather as a sort of perquisite for the captain of a company, who is subject to some expense and is intended to be an encouragement to him to keep his company up. I think we might fairly allow this vote to pass, because it is money spent in the interest of the force, and is of some value.

Mr. FISHER. Although the returns may be quite correct as to the number of men who come up for drill instruction, injustice has been done, in some instances, to certain individuals, in regard to the payment of this sum. The hon. Minister of Militia, a few minutes ago, said that the companies' corps in the rural districts were drilled. In the district from which I come, it is not known that the rural companies are drilled, except on such occasions as they go to camp. In the instance of a battalion in my own county, which went to camp last summer, this pay has been withheld from three captains of companies of that battalion, in consequence, I believe, of the recommendation of the Major-General in command, Major-General Luard, which is contained on page four:

"36. (11th) *Pay*.—The sad weakness of many of the companies attending the camps, in spite of orders issued, establishes the necessity for doing something to induce men to act up to their promises at enrollment and attend camp when ordered. To give more pay is one method. As this has already been done as regards officers and non-commissioned officers, I hope it may also be done for the men. When it is remembered that a dollar a day is by no means a high wage for a labouring man, and that the rural militiaman who comes to camp has frequently to pay a substitute on his farm, an increase to the present pay of the Militia appears reasonable. Another method might be to stop drill pay from Captains whose companies do not come to camp in fair numbers, say two-thirds of total establishment. Ample notice, say four months, should also be given as to the date of the camp, so that the men may make arrangements for their labour at home to be done by others during their absence."

I find that, as I said, the pay of three captains of the battalion was stopped, I believe, in consequence of the fact that

they came to camp with small companies. I understand from the hon. Minister of Militia that that is the case. I think that is an injustice to those officers. In the case of two of them, with whose work I am personally familiar, I know that they spent from a week to ten days before the drill commenced at St. John's camp in doing their utmost to get the men to come to camp, but at the time the men were earning \$1.50 per day with board at home and could not be induced to go to camp for 50 cents per day. Some men who had enlisted for the service and were bound to go, ran away and could not be found simply because they could get better wages at home than they could in camp. It is, consequently, an injustice, because the Department will not pay the men sufficiently to attend camp, that these officers should be made to suffer. The work they performed was really heavier than if they had drilled their own companies at home. If this is the only reason for stopping this pay, and it is the only reason I can see by the report, such injustice should be remedied and those officers should have their pay given to them, as it was not their fault that the companies were short at camp.

Mr. CASEY. I think this money should be paid under the heading for which it is actually used. It should be given as a gratuity to the captains of the companies and be stated as a perquisite, so that the House should know what this money is paid for.

Mr. FISHER. Has the Department adopted the recommendation of General Luard as a General Order.

Mr. CARON. The very case to which the hon. gentleman referred proves the view I have taken is the correct one. He said that three captains who did not turn out full companies did not receive the money which is guaranteed by the Government in that case. This shows that we make a difference between companies that are drilled up to a proper standard and those that are not. I think that is quite right.

Mr. FISHER. The other companies in that same battalion had not gone through any drill whatever till they came into the camp.

Mr. CARON. We have the certificates.

Mr. FISHER. That may be, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that in my county no company belonging to that battalion has done any drill whatever except in the camp.

Mr. CARON. I will look into it.

Mr. FISHER. Moreover, this is a gratuity in regard to the captains, and if it is to be given to one it ought to be given to all these companies that were short of a few men; it was not that their drill was bad or that their captains did not know their drill; nothing of the kind; they simply found it impossible in consequence of the small pay given, to get the full complement of men.

Mr. CASEY. This shows the evil of which I was speaking, of having a legal fiction of this kind, which has deceived even the Minister. He has been actually under the impression that drill instruction was given. On this occasion there was a special report of the Major-General, and in consequence of that report, this drill instruction money was docked. But there is nothing to show that other companies have been equally deficient and still this drill money was given.

Mr. PAINT. I have been fifteen years an officer in the Militia, and a captain who cannot keep his company together does not deserve to have a company or to receive this drill money. I never had any trouble in keeping my company together with full numbers.

Mr. VAIL. I observe that the Minister of Militia did not expend the whole \$40,000 last year, but only \$37,000. If the statement made by my hon. friend behind me is correct, that some companies have been paid that did not perform any